

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

1-49 have now been cancelled from this application and claims 50-68 have been added to this application. Thus, claims 50-68 are now pending, with claims 50, 60, and 68 being the independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Based on the above amendment and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to consider and acknowledge the information disclosure statements filed August 18, 2003 and January 23, 2004.

Objection to the Figures

The Examiner has objected to the Figures as not showing claimed subject matter. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled the claim that led to the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 43-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Based on the canceling of these claims without prejudice of disclaimer, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 43-45 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) ("102(b)") as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,499,777 to Wang ("Wang"). Claims 43 and 47 were rejected under 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,636,964 to Somekh et al. ("Somekh").

Applicants believe that the canceling of claims 43-49 without prejudice or disclaimer renders these rejections moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

New Claim 50-68

Applicants submit that new claims 50-68 are allowable over the applied references.

Claims 50 recites at least a system comprising a connection system, a reticle plate including connecting areas that receive the connection system, a mounting plate that is coupled to the reticle plate via the connection system, and a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot, wherein the connection system allows the reticle plate to be rigidly secured to the mounting plate in first through third degrees of freedom and compliantly secured to the mounting plate in fourth through sixth degrees of freedom.

Claim 60 recites at least a system comprising a means for connecting a reticle plate to a mounting plate to substantially eliminate out-of-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate and allow a predetermined amount of in-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate and a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot.

Claim 68 recites at least a system comprising a connection system, a reticle plate including connecting areas that receive the connection system, a mounting plate that is coupled to the reticle plate via the connection system, and a connector that is used to couple the mounting plate to a robot, wherein the connection system substantially eliminates out-of-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate

and allows a predetermined amount of in-plane movement of the reticle plate with respect to the mounting plate

Neither applied patent teaches of the claimed invention described in claims 50-68. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find claims 50-68 allowable over the applied patents.

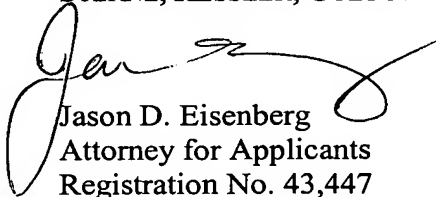
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding final Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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